

the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Our economy began this downward spiral as a result of irresponsible trade policies that have outsourced millions of good-paying American jobs. With the unemployment rate at 8.5 percent, the last thing our economy can afford is more of the same.

I intend to work with the Obama administration and my colleagues in Congress to forge a new direction on trade that addresses the devastation caused by NAFTA and, instead, creates jobs and grows industry in the United States.

AMERICANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined thousands of citizens in my district to protest the reckless disregard Washington has shown for the taxpayers of this Nation and their hard-earned dollars.

People are angry, they are frustrated, and they feel that Washington is not listening, so they came together to protest in the same manner as our forefathers. Their message was simple. Stop spending our money, taxing our families and borrowing against the future of our children.

How did the media and our Democrat leaders here in Washington respond? They were dismissive.

The Speaker of the House, in fact, referred to this grassroots effort as Astroturf.

At the same time, Homeland Security released a report labeling political opponents of the administration as potential terrorists. The right of citizens to speak out against their party in power is at the heart of our democracy.

For a party that carps about bipartisanship and freedom of speech, the Democrat leadership should back their words with actions.

RESET THE COURSE ON TRADE POLICY

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk said this week that the administration wants to move forward with the Bush-negotiated Panama and Colombia Free Trade Agreement "sooner rather than later." This is absolutely outrageous and a serious mistake, and contrary to what the President campaigned on.

Why would we be moving forward on a trade agreement negotiated by President Bush during a time where our economy is struggling? This makes no sense whatsoever. It does not represent a new model on trade. It represents a recycled model that doesn't work.

At home, people are furious about these trade deals. During the economic

downturn, do we really want to push forward a Bush-negotiated free trade agreement? I believe the American people deserve more. I believe they demand more from their elected officials.

We have a historic opportunity with a new administration to reset the course of trade policy. I look forward to working with the administration to change the course of direction.

LAST FIRE ALARM FOR FIREFIGHTERS JAMES HARLOW, SR. AND DAMION HOBBS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the safety of our Nation's citizens often depends on the courageous Americans who choose to serve as firefighters. They answer the sound of the alarm every day to protect and to serve.

On April 12, 2009, two Texas firemen were killed in the line of duty while rushing into a burning home to look for an elderly couple. Captain James Arthur Harlow, Sr. and Firefighter Damion Jon Hobbs both served at Houston Fire Station Number 26.

Captain Harlow served 29 years at the Houston Fire Department. He was married to Debbie, and a wonderful father and grandfather. He also liked to hunt and to fish.

Firefighter Hobbs served our country for 10 years in the United States Army, where he just recently returned from Iraq to join the Houston Fire Department. He left behind parents, siblings and his longtime girlfriend, Crystal. The fire that took his life was his very first alarm call.

Mr. Speaker, our country is better because of remarkable Americans that risk their lives to protect us from harm. Firefighters rush to the sound of the alarm to fight the fires that destroy our communities and threaten lives of citizens. Two of those firefighters, James Harlow, Sr. and Damion Hobbs, gave their lives in that sacred duty.

And that's just the way it is.

LAS VEGAS SUN PULITZER PRIZE

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Las Vegas Sun and reporter Alexandra Berzon for the top-notch reporting that carried them and earned them the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for public service earlier this week.

Alexandra's investigation into the deaths of construction workers on the Las Vegas Strip, combined with the efforts of editorial writers, Matt Huffman and David Clayton brought attention to this serious issue and resulted in critical safety reforms that will save lives in Nevada.

Nine workers had died on the job when Alexandra wrote her first of more

than 50 stories chronicling the dangers construction workers face when safety is sacrificed for speed or profit. Her findings will be very valuable to Congress as the Education and Labor Committee examines this issue further.

The first Pulitzer for the Las Vegas Sun is a momentous occasion for the paper and for our community, so I, again, congratulate the Sun and Alexandra for earning journalism's highest honor.

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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, the Savings Recovery Act, legislation designed to help Americans rebuild their retirement, college and personal savings, was introduced. This legislation will make it easier for Americans to save more for their retirement by increasing the contribution and catch-up limits for individuals and families. It will restore college savings by extending the existing credit for contributions made to college savings accounts. The Savings Recovery Act will ensure workers retain control over their hard-earned 401(k)s, not the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need more than just lip service when it comes to their futures. They need real solutions, solutions which come from empowering the public, not from racking up more debt.

I urge my colleagues to support the Savings Recovery Act.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SANDRA CANTU

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sandra Cantu, a child whose life was tragically cut short. Eight-year-old Sandra lived in Tracy, California, a town I am honored to represent.

Now known as "Tracy's precious angel," Sandra was a cheerful, friendly girl whose joyful life was evident whether she was doing cartwheels or playing on the jungle gym. She brightened the lives of everyone she came into contact with, even those who never met her, as was seen in the number of people at her memorial last week.

Her horrific kidnapping and death are a tragedy beyond description. No parent should have to experience the loss of a child, especially at such a young age.

I am touched by the outpouring of support for Sandra's family from the Tracy residents and for the tireless work of the Tracy Police Department.

Sandra Cantu will be missed, and I join those who grieve as we celebrate her short life.

THE REAL COST OF CAP-AND-TRADE LEGISLATION

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Democrats begin hearings on so-called "cap-and-trade" legislation. It is their legislative response to concerns over global climate change. Even former Vice President Al Gore will testify tomorrow here on Capitol Hill. But as many around the country and in this body are realizing, there are a lot of inconvenient truths about the cap-and-trade bill.

The Democrat plan actually caps growth and trades jobs, and the truth is this cap-and-trade legislation is essentially an economic declaration of war on the Midwest by liberals in Washington, D.C., and it must be opposed.

Under the Democratic plan, estimates suggest the average American household could face more than \$3,000 a year in higher energy costs, and people in the Midwest, like us in Indiana, will bear the largest burden. Even the President, as candidate, said, "Under my plan of cap-and-trade, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket." We can only estimate these numbers, Mr. Speaker, because the Democratic plan includes no numbers.

The truth is the American people deserve to know what all this is going to cost. The Democrats and the Congress need to come clean about the cost of their cap-and-trade bill, and when they do, this Congress and the American people will reject it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1145, NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 352 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 352

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1145) to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science and Technology. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under

the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCURI. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCURI. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 352 provides for a structured rule for consideration of H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009.

Among the many challenges we face, none is more elemental than protecting our water. Increases in population, growing energy demands and shifting weather patterns jeopardize water supplies across the country. Water is essential and irreplaceable, but many Americans are unaware that many supplies across the country are at risk.

It is critical that we coordinate the efficient use of water resources and maintain water quality. Competent water management is essential if we are to meet the competing needs of

transportation, industry, agriculture, recreation, and power production, but currently more than 20 Federal agencies carry out research and development on some aspect of water supply, water quality or water management.

H.R. 1145 would address this issue by creating a National Water Research and Development Initiative to improve Federal, State and local government activities related to water research and development. The bill would improve coordination on Federal research by establishing an interagency committee to ensure Federal agencies work together on critical water issues.

A lack of coordination and competing interests frequently strain agencies and local communities tasked with managing a limited water supply. A perfect example of this problem can be found in my district in Upstate New York, where the Hinckley Reservoir supplies water for 130,000 residents in my hometown of Utica and for the outlying areas; but as with most bodies of water, the reservoir serves multiple uses, not just as a source of drinking water but as a source of hydropower and a water supply for the canal and a recreational site.

After years of battle between the local water authority and the State canal corporation over rights to the water, a couple of summers ago, the Hinckley Reservoir drained to within 3 feet of disrupting the water supply. That was not because of a lack of water. That has never been the issue. Rather, it was the lack of a cogent water policy and agreement by the conflicting interests. The low reservoir level impacted hydropower generation at a local power facility, and it jeopardized drinking water safety. A situation like this is unacceptable, especially when there is a large amount of water available. It is critical that we put measures in place resolving the conflicting objectives and poor communication between agencies.

This underlying bill and the water census it creates is the first step in that process for similar situations that exist, not only in New York State but around the country. That is why I'm offering an amendment that will require the interagency committee created by this bill to study competing water supply uses and how different uses interact and impact each other. Our water supply is invaluable in so many ways, not only for consumption but for the generation of electricity, for the production of food, for transportation, and for recreation, just to name a few. We must be sure to balance these competing interests in an efficient and equitable way.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will continue to support it as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, the gentleman from